

**Meeting of Muehl Public Library Board**  
**Monday, August 7, 2023**  
**5:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Board President-Jason Finn, Pat Krull, Kristen Diermeier, Lila Zastrow  
Library Director-Elizabeth Timmins  
Regrets: Adam Schaumberg, Sandy Heiden, Darla Dorosz  
Guests: Tommy Romanowski, Tom Romanowski, Ellery Romanowski, JoLee Romanowski

**Call to Order**

Welcome guest student Tommy Romanowski who will speak to us about intellectual freedom. We will fit him in under new business prior to the T.E.

Not on the original agenda (just found out today) but I think it is legitimate for these reasons:

- 1) It was announced at a previous board meeting as a “tentative.”
- 2) It does not involve a decision or a vote.
- 3) The student is leaving for college, we are in a time crunch.

\*ET shared her letter from prison that was sent by a fan of Channel 5. Since the board meeting: Turns out Eugene sent the same exact love letter to Francine @ Sissy’s, hahahahaha.

**Reports**

- Minutes—June 5, 2023
  - Motion to approve the minutes by Kristen D.; second by Pat K.; motion carried.
- Director’s Report—July 2023
  - Items coming to a vote at next AAC meeting will be reported to you at the September board meeting...how we will be voting and why.
- Financial Report—July 2023
  - ET said another bill came in Monday’s mail and was added to the spreadsheet that was sent out on Friday. It was account #5329 in the amount of \$131.45.
  - Jason asked about bill in capital outlay line. ET explained that was a landscaping bill.
  - Motion to approve the financial report by Pat K.; second by Kristen D.; motion carried.
- Activities Report—Complete through end of June 2023...Creeping ahead, it’s looking good. Everything is up but we are still “behind”.

**Unfinished Business**

- Budget, 2024
  - As indicated in the Director’s Report, ET met with Sean (City Administrator) to ask for the City funding apportionment for 2024.
  - She submitted the 4% increase as directed by the board at the June meeting. No news yet.
- Makerspace class
  - Summer “off”. However, one of the professors (Pete) is coming to visit our library on August 17. He will be observing board games and snow cones.
  - ET shared a flyer that Michelle created so that we can have a nice group of patrons to meet Pete! 😊

- August programming
  - Still on deck, PACE tomorrow! Last one at the library.
  - Crochet with Cindy on Tuesdays 8, 15 and 22 of August. Cindy showed us the squares. Beautiful work! One blanket will be for Community 2000, One for Seymour Fire & Rescue, and one for the FMPL Casino night. Thank you, thank you, thank you!
  - Pintsize polkas in honor of Deloris Clausen, August 18.
  - Farmer's Market, August 22.
  - Toy Sleepover...August 25 through August 28. Permission slips are available NOW! ☺
- HOTH Parade (Community spirit with Tammy Nachtwey)
  - Yay! It is coming together. Highlighting CFRC and the library—a great collaboration for young families! ☺
- Library sub
  - Cathy Krull is amazing!
  - Quick learner!
  - Community minded!
- WLA conference planning, more frequent meetings
  - The library conference is in Middleton in October.
  - As we get closer we will begin having weekly planning meetings after Labor Day.

### **New Business**

- Tommy did his presentation on Intellectual Freedom. He shared his slides and speech with me for future reference. Key points: Censorship is old. First example was in 213 B. C. Politically motivated rather than merits of the text. Lots of times censored by people who have not read the book. Bans made by fellow citizens. Public libraries play an important role as defenders of text. ALA celebrates BANNED BOOK WEEK from October 1 through October 7. All citizens are entitled to access all information. When you read a banned book you are fighting the censorship which was aiming to “keep your head down”. ☺ Your invite...read a banned book! ET gave Tommy some buttons for BANNED BOOK WEEK like “I am with the BANNED” and “Join the BANNED.” Thanks for the excellent talk, thanks to the Romanoski family for encouragement, and thanks to high school instructor Jessica Caldie.
- Trustee Essential #26, The Public Library System Trustee—the Broad viewpoint, this essential was about serving on a system board such as the OWLS board. There was some crossover with responsibilities of our trustees.
- FMPL Casino night fundraiser, Saturday, September 30, 2023, 5 to 9 at St. John's. The NEW “wine event”.
- Intern from DVR including weekly reporting requirement. As indicated in Director's Report, ET has been reporting weekly to Michelle's supervisor (Jenni) so that Michelle is compensated. Michelle will be in attendance at the September board meeting to see a board meeting in action. She will be invited to share briefly about her summer here, also!
- Question from Lila, must library cards expire annually? Yes, this is for accuracy of data in patron records which is tied to our funding.

- Question from Pat. Should the library hand out information about the water price hike in Seymour? Yes. Kristen indicated that there is a FAQ document on the City of Seymour website that we can run off and have at the counter. Kristen had a great point that staff should know, the library is not endorsing the price hike but providing information about it!

All board business was concluded at 6:15, the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held **Tuesday**, September 5, 2023, 5:30 PM (**The day after Labor Day.**)

Notes respectfully submitted by Elizabeth M. Timmins for Sandy Heiden.